

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

STREET FIGHT



Police forensic officers examine the remains of a car bomb outside Newtownhamilton Police Station, Northern Ireland, Friday, April, 23, 2010. Irish Republican Army dissidents fired gunshots and detonated a car bomb outside a security base in a Northern Ireland border village, injuring three people, police said Friday.

Read more on Page A8

SPORTS NEWS

LAST GO-ROUND



Mexican golf player Lorena Ochoa, 28, wipes her face during a news conference in Mexico City, Friday, April 23, 2010. Ochoa, the No. 1 player in women's golf, said she plans to play in the upcoming Tres Marias Championships in Morelia before she retires. Ochoa leaves the game with 27 victories, two major titles and nearly \$15 million in earnings.

Read more on Page A12



Gov. Jan Brewer signs illegal immigration bill SB1070 into law during a news conference at the Arizona Department of Transportation in Phoenix on Friday, April 23, 2010.

Associated Press

Arizona governor signs immigration enforcement bill

JONATHAN J. COOPER
PAUL DAVENPORT

Associated Press Writers

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona

Gov. Jan Brewer signed into law the nation's toughest legislation against illegal immigration Friday, a

sweeping measure which President Barack Obama said could violate people's civil rights. *Continued on Next Page*



Vatican to finance adult stem cell research

Cardinal Renato Martino gestures during a meeting at Rome's National Institute of Health, Friday, April 23, 2010. The Vatican is pushing for research of adult stem cells as an alternative to the use of embryonic stem cells, which the Catholic Church opposes because it maintains that the destruction of the embryo amounts to the killing of human life.

Associated Press

ALESSANDRA RIZZO

Associated Press Writer

ROME (AP) — The Vatican is pushing for research of adult stem cells as an alternative to the use of embryonic stem cells, which the Catholic Church opposes because it maintains that the destruction of the embryo amounts to the killing of human life.

Continued on Page 7



Sarah Palin testifies in e-mail hacking trial

BILL POOVEY
Associated Press Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Sarah Palin testified Friday about the disruption and hurt caused when her e-mail account was hacked during the 2008 presidential campaign and said outside court that there should be consequences for what happened.

Continued on Page 3

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IMMIGRATION BILL

Continued from Front Page

With hundreds of people surrounding the state Capitol, protesting that the bill would lead to civil rights abuses, Brewer said she wouldn't tolerate racial profiling by police. She said critics were "overreacting."

"We in Arizona have been more than patient waiting for Washington to act," Brewer said after signing the law. "But decades of inaction and misguided policy have created a dangerous and unacceptable situation."

Obama said earlier Friday that he's instructed the Justice Department to examine the Arizona bill to see if it's legal, and said the federal government must enact

immigration reform at the national level — or leave the door open to "irresponsibility by others."

"That includes, for example, the recent efforts in Arizona, which threaten to undermine basic notions of fairness that we cherish as Americans, as well as the trust between police and their communities that is so crucial to keeping us safe," Obama said.

The bill, sent to the Republican governor by the Republican-led Legislature, would make it a crime under state law to be in the country illegally. It would also require local police officers to question people about their immigration status if there is reason to suspect they are illegal immigrants.

The bill takes effect 90 days after the legislative session ends in the next several weeks.

Demonstrators have been camped outside the Capitol since the measure passed out of the Legislature on Monday. Their numbers have grown steadily throughout the week, with buses bringing protesters from as far away as Los Angeles.

Brewer, who faces a tough election battle and growing anger in the state over illegal immigrants, said the law "protects every Arizona citizen."

Arizona has an estimated 460,000 illegal immigrants and is the state with the most illegal border crossings, with



Edgar Rios, left, and Marcos Gonzalez, both of Phoenix, join hundreds of protesters as they rally at the Capitol to protest the possible signing of immigration bill SB1070 by Gov. Jan Brewer Friday, April 23, 2010, in Phoenix. The sweeping measure would make it a crime under state law to be in the country illegally, and would require local law enforcement to question people about their immigration status if there is reason to suspect they are in the country illegally.

Associated Press

the harsh, remote desert serving as the gateway for thousands of Mexicans and Central Americans.

U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva, a Democrat who opposes the measure, said he was closing his Arizona offices at noon Friday after his staff in Yuma and Tucson were flooded with calls this week, some from people threatening violent acts and shouting racial slurs.

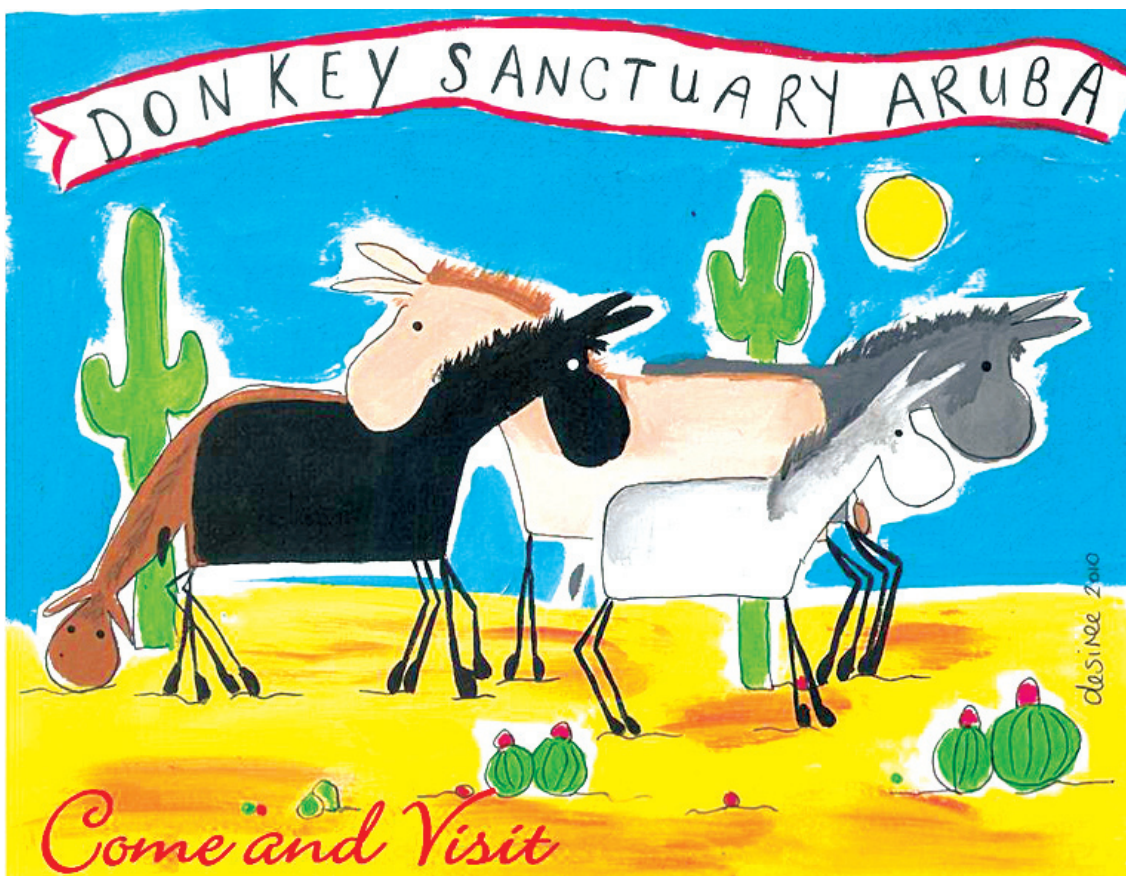
The bill's Republican sponsor, state Rep. Russell Pearce of Mesa, said Obama and other critics of the bill were "against law enforcement, our citizens and the rule of law."

Pearce said the legislation

would remove "political handcuffs" from police and help drive illegal immigrants from the state.

"Illegal is illegal," said Pearce, a driving force on the issue in Arizona. "We'll have less crime. We'll have lower taxes. We'll have safer neighborhoods. We'll have shorter lines in the emergency rooms. We'll have smaller classrooms."

Other provisions of the bill allow lawsuits against government agencies that hinder enforcement of immigration laws, and make it illegal to hire illegal immigrants for day labor or knowingly transport them. □



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PALIN TESTIFIES

Continued from front Page

Palin declined to say if she thinks conviction of the 22-year-old defendant should lead to prison or if community service would be punishment enough. "That's up to the judge," she said when she stopped to talk to reporters outside the courthouse.

Former University of Tennessee student David Kernell, the 22-year-old son of a Democratic state lawmaker, is charged with hacking the Yahoo! e-mail account as Palin campaigned in 2008 as the Republican vice presidential candidate.

Kernell faces up to 50 years in federal prison if convicted of identity theft, mail fraud and two other felony charges. His lawyer has said the case is a prank and Kernell had no criminal intent.

Asked outside the courtroom if she thought the charges against Kernell were excessive, Palin said, "I don't know, but I do think there should be consequences for bad behavior."

As Palin walked to the witness stand, some jurors smiled at her. The first question from Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Weddle was, "May I call you Governor Palin?"

The former Alaska governor smiled almost constantly through 30 minutes of testimony as she told jurors about the disruption the hacking caused for her family and close friends when their e-mails and phone numbers were publicized on the Internet.

The posting of family photos and e-mails on the web fueled rumors that Palin and her husband had affairs and that her youngest child, Trig, was not really her son, she said in court.

Palin's husband, Todd, sat in the courtroom as she testified. Their daughter, Bristol, told jurors earlier this week that she got harassing calls and text messages after screen shots of e-mail from the account revealed her cell phone number. A former Palin aide also described receiving vulgar e-mails.

Kernell isn't accused of the

harassment, but prosecutors say he broke into Palin's e-mail account in September 2008 by correctly providing her birth date and ZIP code and correctly answering that she met her husband in Wasilla, Alaska. Kernell's attorney, Wade Davies, argued the password was obtained using information that was publicly available, including where she met her husband.

"It wasn't a secret to me," Palin said. "I don't know if the rest of the world knew it or not."

After the e-mail was hacked, prosecutors said Kernell bragged about it in obscenity-laced Internet postings. An FBI computer forensics specialist and other witnesses testified about photos of the Palin children and a reference to Bristol as "the prego one." "In case you missed it on the front page of the National Enquirer at the time, Bristol was pregnant," Palin said outside the courthouse after testifying.

The e-mail intrusion occurred after news reports revealed



David Kernell leaves the Federal Courthouse with his mother, Lt. Col. Lillian Landrigan, left, and a lady who wouldn't identify herself, right, after court was adjourned Friday, April 23, 2010 in Knoxville, Tenn. Kernell was a University of Tennessee student majoring in economics when prosecutors say he hacked into the Yahoo! account Palin sometimes used for state business.

Associated Press

that Palin had used the private account to discuss some state business with staff. Palin said she carried a separate BlackBerry for state business. Palin testified during cross-examination that she could not recall being warned to change her Yahoo! e-mail

account. That differed from earlier testimony by a former Palin aide in Alaska, Frank Bailey, who set up the account at Palin's request and said he had previously warned Palin to make changes because the password could be easily discovered. □

Scouts must pay \$18.5M in punitive damages

WILLIAM McCALL

Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — A jury on Friday ordered the Boy Scouts of America to pay \$18.5 million to a man sexually abused by a former assistant Scoutmaster in what is believed to be the largest such award against the organization.

Lawyers for Kerry Lewis had asked the jury to award at least \$25 million to punish the Boy Scouts for what the jury had already agreed in the first phase of the trial was reckless and outrageous conduct.

The jury decided on April 13 that the Boy Scouts were negligent for allowing former assistant Scoutmaster Timur

Dykes to associate with Scouts, including Lewis, after Dykes admitted to a Scouts official in 1983 that he had molested 17 boys.

The jury awarded Lewis \$1.4 million in compensatory damages with that verdict and agreed the Boy Scouts of America were liable for punitive damages to be determined in the second phase of the trial that ended Thursday.

Boy Scouts officials declined to comment on details of the case because other cases are pending, but issued a statement saying it maintains a "rigorous" system to screen Scout leaders.

"The Boy Scouts of America has always stood against child abuse of any kind," it said.

The case was the first of six filed against the Boy Scouts in the same court in Oregon, with at least one other separate case pending. If mediation fails to settle the next cases, they also could go to trial.

The amount of the damages surprised Patrick Boyle, editor of the Youth Today newspaper and author of a book about sex abuse within the Scouts.

"That's a lot of money. This is by far the biggest award against the Scouts for sex abuse, probably by several times," Boyle said.

The award is also significant,

he said, because it is only against the national Boy Scouts organization and is not divided among any of its local councils or other defendants.

Kelly Clark and Paul Mones, the attorneys for Lewis, told the jury the Boy Scouts were nearly a \$1 billion corporation that could well afford punitive damages intended to deter them from similar conduct in the future.

During the first phase of the trial, Clark and Mones introduced more than 1,000 files the Scouts kept on suspected child molesters from 1965-85 as evidence the organization should have put a sex abuse prevention program into place decades ago. □



In this April 13, 2010 file photo, plaintiff Kerry Lewis reacts after the verdict against the Boy Scouts of America was announced in Portland, Ore. The jury has already awarded Lewis, 38, \$1.4 million for the 1980s abuse and could decide the Boy Scouts organization must pay as much as \$25 million more in punitive damages.

Associated Press

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Oil drilling accidents prompted new safety rules



From left to right, Adrian Rose, Transocean's vice president for quality, health, safety and the environment, and David Rainey, BP's vice president for Gulf of Mexico production, listen as U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Mary E. Landry answers questions during a press conference about the ongoing operations surrounding the Deepwater Horizon mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) explosion, investigation, search and rescue, and pollution response, New Orleans, Thursday, April 22, 2010.

KEVIN MCGILL
NOAKI SCHWARTZ

Associated Press
Associated Press Writers
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A

federal agency that oversees offshore oil drilling was so concerned about deaths and injuries it had documented that it was moving to impose new safety rules even before this week's oil rig explosion off the Louisiana coast, according to records obtained by The Associated Press.

A Minerals and Management Service review published last year found 41 deaths and 302 injuries out of 1,443 accidents, the majority caused by human error and operational and maintenance problems. The new rules focus on preventing human error, a safety area that hadn't received as much attention in the past.

The accidents and the explosion have again brought criticisms of the industry and opponents

of President Barack Obama's plan for more offshore drilling say the collapse should be taken as a warning to slow the fervor to drill.

As officials continued to search for what caused the blast, crews were making progress cleaning up oil from the explosion Tuesday, and trying to contain what spilled and prevent any threat to the coast's fragile ecosystem. The Coast Guard was also using an airplane, a helicopter and a Coast Guard cutter to continue looking for 11 missing workers even as hopes diminished that they survived.

Officials did receive good news Friday when Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry said no oil appeared to be leaking from a well head at

the ocean floor, nor was any leaking at the water's surface. But she said crews were closely monitoring the rig for any more crude that might spill out.

At midday Friday, at least half a dozen boats were visible with booms extended in loops, trapping a thin oil sheen that extended about 7 miles north of where the rig sank.

From the air, there was no sign the oil was affecting animal life in the area.

Strong winds were blowing generally from the south as a cold front approached from Texas. The passage of the front late Friday or Saturday was expected to shift winds to the north, which could push the sheen away from the coast.

BP PLC, which leased the rig and took the lead in the cleanup, said it has activated an extensive oil spill response, including using remotely operated vehicles to assess the well and 32 vessels to mop up the spill.

BP Chief Executive Tony Hayward said the company will do "everything in our power to contain this oil spill and resolve the situation as rapidly, safely and effectively as possible." Weather forecasts indicate the spill was likely to stay well away from shore at least through the weekend, but if winds change it could come ashore faster, said Doug Helton of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's office of response and restoration.

Environmentalists said the explosion was a reminder the industry was dangerous.

"I would hope it would serve as another wake-up call on this issue that there is no such thing as safe oil drilling," said Sara Wan, a California Coastal Commission who opposes offshore drilling. □

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Man pleads guilty in plot to bomb NYC subway

TOM HAYS

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A man said Friday that a plan to attack the New York City subway system was ordered by al-Qaida leaders two years ago while he was in Pakistan with a friend, a former airport shuttle driver who has since admitted to the plot.

Zarein Ahmedzay, 25, pleaded guilty in federal court in Brooklyn to charges including conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction in the foiled New York City subway bomb plot from fall 2009.

He said he, admitted plotter Najibullah Zazi and a third, unidentified man met with the al-Qaida leaders in Pakistan in 2008, where they offered to join the Taliban and fight U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

"They told us we would be more useful if we returned

to New York City ... to conduct operations," he said. Asked by the judge what kind of operations, he responded, "Suicide-bombing operations."

He added: "I personally believed that conducting an operation in the United States would be the best way to end the war," he said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Knox identified the leaders as senior al-Qaida operatives Saleh al-Somali and Rashid Rauf, who were both killed in Pakistan. The U.S. Justice Department on Friday described al-Somali as the head of international operations for al-Qaida.

Al-Somali was killed in a U.S. drone missile strike in December. Rauf, a British militant linked to a jetliner bomb plot, was also killed in a predator strike in November

2008.

Knox said Ahmedzay met with a third senior al-Qaida operative in a training camp in Pakistan's North Waziristan region near the Afghan border. He has not been identified.

Prosecutors say Ahmedzay joined Zazi and another friend from their Queens high school on the trip to Pakistan to seek terrorist training.

Zazi, a Colorado airport van driver, admitted this year that he tested bomb-making materials in a Denver suburb before traveling by car to New York with the intent of attacking the subway system to avenge U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan.

Ahmedzay and the third suspect, Adis Medunjanin, had previously pleaded not guilty to charges they sought to join Zazi, an Afghan immigrant, in what prosecutors described



This Jan. 8, 2010 file courtroom sketch shows Zarein Ahmedzay, right, with his attorney Michael Marinaccio speaking during his arraignment at Brooklyn federal court in New York. Law enforcement officials say Ahmedzay, charged in a plot to attack the New York subway system with homemade bombs, plans to plead guilty Friday, April 23, 2010, in Brooklyn federal court.

Associated Press

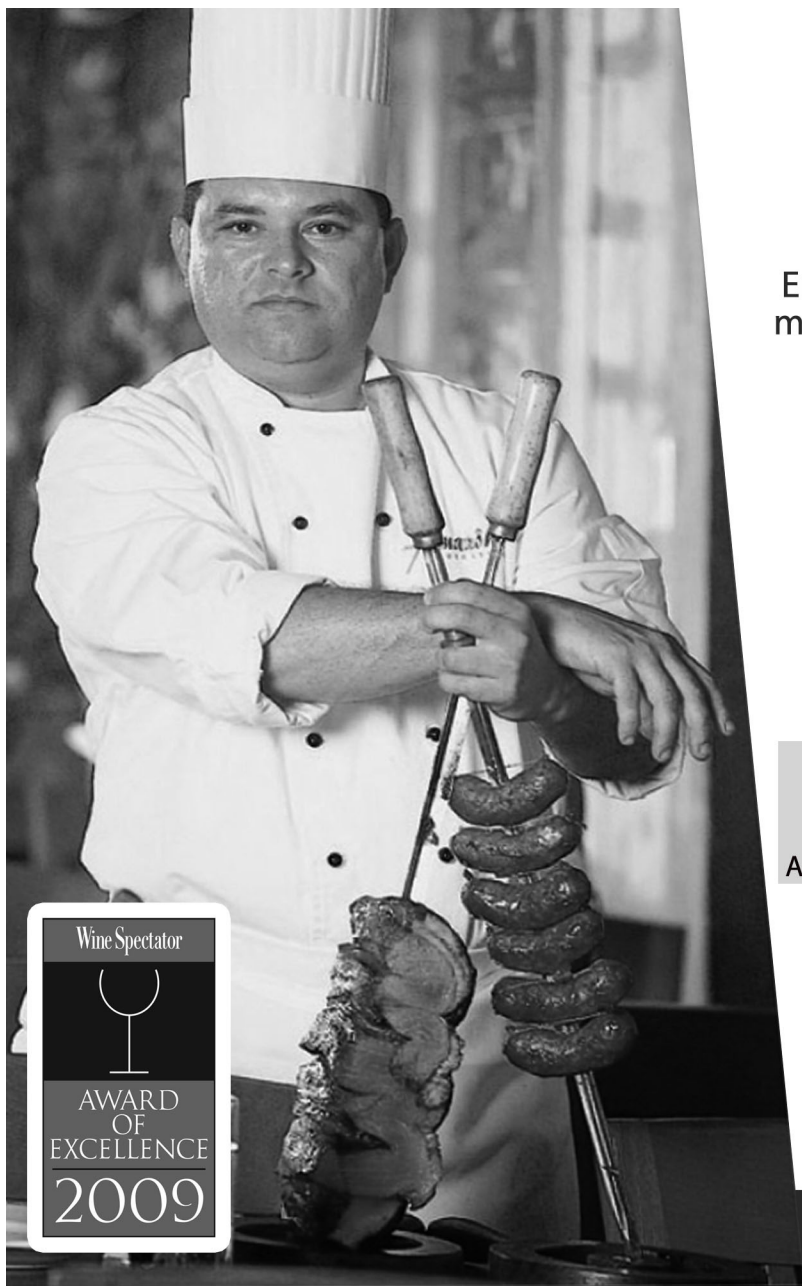
as three "coordinated suicide bombing attacks" on Manhattan subway lines. The bombings were planned for the days after the eighth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, authorities said.

Medunjanin, who is originally from Bosnia, and Ahmedzay, who was born in Afghanistan, are U.S. citizens. They and Zazi attended Flushing High School in the borough of

Queens.

Officials have said a fourth suspect is in custody in Pakistan but have given no other details about him.

Ahmedzay — who had been licensed to drive a taxi in New York — said Friday that once back in New York the men considered attacking "well-known structures" to cause "maximum casualties," before settling on the subways. □



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Bombs kill 60 in Iraq days after al-Qaida killings

BUSHRA JUHI,

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — A series of bombings mainly targeting Shiite worshippers killed at least 60 people on Friday, officials said, just days after U.S. and Iraqi forces killed the top two al-Qaida leaders in Iraq in what was described as devastating blow to the insurgency.

The apparently coordinated attack, which occurred in a two-hour timespan, demonstrated insurgents remain a potent force despite U.S. and Iraqi claims that the terror network is on the run. Officials have warned insurgents remain capable of staging high-profile bombings in a bid to reignite sectarian tensions that pushed the country to the brink of civil war.

Extremists are also seeking to exploit political deadlock after the inconclusive March 7 parliamentary election as U.S. forces prepare to go withdraw from the country by the end of 2011.

At least 10 car bombs and roadside attacks struck the capital, according to Iraqi police. No suicide bombings — an al-Qaida trademark — were reported but Iraqi



People rush to extinguish a burning car moments after one in a series of bombs in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, April 23, 2010. Triple bombings hit a Sadrist office Friday as worshippers were finishing their prayers, killing 14 and wounding an estimated 75 in a rash of attacks on Shiites across Iraq's capital. Explosions outside three other Shiite mosques in Baghdad, all timed around the end of Friday's prayers, appeared to be the work of insurgents looking anew to inflame sectarian tensions.

Associated Press

authorities were quick to blame the Sunni-led terror network, which frequently targets Shiites.

The deadliest attack took place near the Baghdad headquarters of anti-U.S. Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in the vast slum of Sadr City as Friday prayers were ending at about 1:30 p.m.

At least two car bombs exploded a few hundred yards (meters) from the compound, ripping through the area as men were kneeling on prayer mats in the street outside the mosque, according to police and witnesses.

As people fled the scene, at least two more bombs exploded in a parking lot where many had left their vehicles.

At least 27 people were killed and an estimated 150 wounded, according to hospital and police officials who spoke on condition of

anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Onlookers threw stones at arriving Iraqi security forces, frustrated with their apparent inability to secure the city. Iraqi troops fired their guns in the air to scatter the crowd.

"I saw a huge ball of fire after the explosion," said Ali Salim, 28, a book and stationery seller. He was knocked out and woke up in the Sadr City hospital, which was overcrowded with victims, including injured women and children who had

to sit on the floor.

Blood mixed with water used by firefighters to put out the burning cars streamed down muddy streets, and flames shot out of cars and motorcycles in the parking lot. Passers-by frantically tried to help firefighters put out the flames. Shouting men loaded the wounded from stretchers made of bed sheets onto the backs of trucks to rush them to the hospital.

One man fled carrying a young girl whose pink dress was stained with blood. Others could be seen picking up human remains that were scattered on the streets.

The violence began shortly after the call to prayer resounded across the capital at about 11:15 a.m. with two bombs exploding in the mainly Shiite neighborhood of Zafaraniyah, killing one person and wounding 12.

A car bomb later killed eight people and wounded 19 near a Shiite mosque in the northern Hurriyah neighborhood, while another killed 14 and wounded 36 in the eastern neighborhood of Amin al-Thaniyah.

The major blasts all occurred in former Shiite militia strongholds, underscoring the insurgents' aim of provoking a new round of sectarian bloodshed. In the past, such bombings would be followed by revenge militia attacks against Sunnis but the retaliatory violence ebbed after al-Sadr's forces were routed by U.S.-Iraqi offensives in 2008.

Three other people were killed in scattered violence elsewhere in the capital. Bombs also ripped through the houses of Iraqi policemen in the former insurgent stronghold of Anbar province, killing at least seven people, including a soldier trying to defuse one of the devices, authorities said.

Nobody claimed responsibility for Friday's attacks, but Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, an Iraqi military spokesman, said the bombings were likely retaliation by al-Qaida for the loss of its top two leaders on Sunday. □



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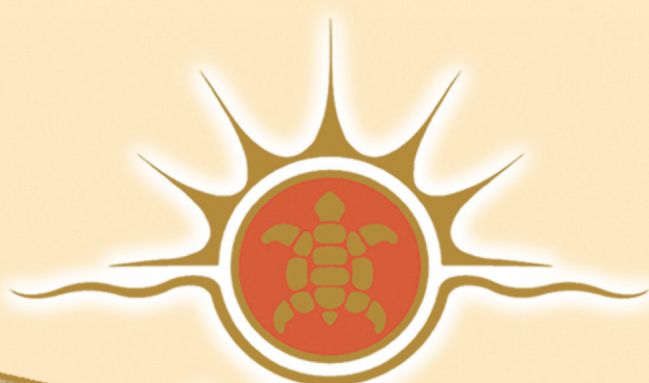
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STEM CELL

Continued from Front Page

On Friday, the Catholic Church threw its support and resources behind the study of intestinal adult stem cells by a group of experts led by the University of Maryland School of Medicine. The group wants to explore the potential use of those cells in the treatment of intestinal and possibly other diseases, and is seeking an initial €2 million (\$2.7 million) to get the project going, officials said.

"This research protects life," Cardinal Renato Martino said during a meeting with Italian and American scientists and health officials to outline the project. "I want to stress that it doesn't involve embryonic stem cells, where one helps oneself and then throws the embryo away and kills a human life."

The church is opposed to embryonic stem cell research because it involves the destruction of embryos, but it supports the use of adult stem cells, which are found in the bodies of all humans. Human embryonic stem cells are produced from surplus embryos of in vitro fertilization procedures used to help infertile women get pregnant.

Both are prized for their ability to morph into other kinds of cells, offering the

possibility of replacing tissue damaged by ailments such as Parkinson's disease.

But adult cells are thought to be less versatile than embryonic ones, and scientists have had more trouble growing adult stem cells in the laboratory than embryonic cells.

Still, adult stem cells could be easier to use if they are taken from patients themselves, because the replacement tissue would have less chance of being rejected.

Martino, a powerful cardinal and retired head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, told The Associated Press after the meeting that he had "no doubt" that the Vatican would help finance the project through its Rome hospital, Bambin Gesù, and other funding. The exact amount and modalities will be worked out in future meetings with the University of Maryland and other scientists involved in the project.

In 2007, Pope Benedict XVI said the Catholic Church can encourage somatic stem cell research — also known as adult stem cell research — "because of the favorable results obtained through these alternative methods," and more importantly because it respects "the life of the human being at every stage of his or her existence."

During a meeting with President Barack Obama last year at the Vatican, Benedict underscored his beliefs about stem cells by giving the U.S. leader a copy of a Vatican document on bioethics that hardened the church's opposition to using embryos for stem cell research, cloning and in-vitro fertilization.

Obama has lifted restrictions, imposed by his predecessor President George W. Bush, on federal funding of research using human embryonic stem cells.

The Vatican has drawn criticism for its opposition to embryonic stem cell research. But it insists there are scientifically viable alternatives and that the efforts of the scientific community should go in that direction.

Supporting this university project is part of those efforts. "Ethically, the rules the Catholic Church promotes are really very simple: That all research be respectful of human life," said Father Bob Gahl, an American professor of Moral Philosophy at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. "Nobody should be killed in the process of doing medical research. So this new project falls exactly within the Catholic Church's ethical guidelines."

Dr. George Daley, a stem cell



Alessio Fasano, left, director of the Mucosal Biology Research center at the University of Maryland talks, and US professor Curt Civin, right, Director of the Center for Stem Cell Biology & Regenerative Medicine and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Maryland gestures during a meeting between the Vatican and Italian and American scientists and health officials at Rome's National Institute of Health, Friday, April 23, 2010. The Vatican is pushing for research of adult stem cells as an alternative to the use of embryonic stem cells, which the Catholic Church opposes because it maintains that the destruction of the embryo amounts to the killing of human life.

Associated Press

expert at Children's Hospital in Boston and past president of the International Society for Stem Cell Research, said both adult and embryonic stem cells may prove useful for treating different diseases. "I applaud the Vatican for being interested in supporting biomedical research," Daley said Friday, "but I can't help but think there's an agenda." He called intestinal stem cells "a very exciting area of basic research" but said therapeutic uses are only speculative at this point.

Researchers involved in the Vatican-backed project are convinced that intestinal stem cells — a relatively new field — hold promise and want to assess their potential for therapeutic use.

"We want to harvest them, we want to isolate them, we want to make them grow outside our body," and transform them into cells of any kind, said Alessio Fasano, the scientist leading the project and the director of the University of Maryland's Center for Celiac Research. □

Dissident IRA car bomb hurts 3 in N. Ireland village



A police forensic officer examines the remains of a car bomb outside Newtownhamilton Police Station, Northern Ireland, Friday, April, 23, 2010. Irish Republican Army dissidents fired gunshots and detonated a car bomb outside a security base in a Northern Ireland border village, injuring three people, police said Friday. The attack outside the heavily fortified Newtownhamilton police station is the third in the British territory this year by splinter IRA groups.

Associated Press

SHAWN POGATCHNIK
Associated Press Writer
NEWTOWNHAMILTON, Northern Ireland (AP) — Irish Republican Army dissidents fired gunshots and detonated a car bomb outside the police station in this border village, damaging homes and businesses and injuring three people, police and witnesses said Friday. The leaders of Northern Ireland's unity government denounced Thursday night's attack on Newtownhamilton as timed to raise tensions during campaigning for the British election May 6. Irish Catholic and British Protestant parties who cooperate in the local government are competing for Northern Ireland's 18 parliamentary seats in London.

Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, a former IRA commander who is the government's senior Catholic politician, noted that the dissidents had struck "in the middle of an election campaign which is about our future." McGuinness said the IRA splinter groups "offer nothing but hardship, division and pain. We cannot allow them to define our future. They will not break the will of the community." But local residents and

politicians gathered at the Newtownhamilton police crime-scene tape said they were nearly as angry at the police as the bombers — because no officers were in the base, or anywhere in Newtownhamilton, until after the bomb had exploded.

Residents said the IRA dissidents fired a volley of gunfire as they abandoned the car bomb outside Newtownhamilton's heavily fortified police station. But no officers were inside, nor did any police arrive until after the bomb exploded an hour later. They credited local firefighters with evacuating nearby streets and pubs just before the bomb detonated.

The blast knocked two elderly residents to the ground, and a Lithuanian man suffered minor shrapnel injuries. A pub, a community hall and several homes suffered broken windows.

Locals noted that IRA dissidents had planted a dud car bomb at the same spot 10 days ago that British Army experts dismantled. They argued that police should have responded by increasing security in Newtownhamilton, which is virtually on the border with the Republic of Ireland.

"The fact that dissidents could return to this village to plant a second bomb says it all, really," said the Rev. Ker Graham, the lone Presbyterian minister in the predominantly Catholic village. "There's no real police presence here, and the people do feel abandoned." But the area's police commander, Chief Inspector Sam Corder, said his officers had to weigh the risk of potential ambushes when responding to any dissident

IRA threats anywhere along the South Armagh border. The region, long dubbed "bandit country" because of its associations with lawlessness and IRA activity, features narrow hedge-lined roads that are easy hiding places for roadside bombs.

"These people are hell-bent on killing police officers," Corder said, adding, "The threat in this area is severe and any police response needs to be measured and properly thought through." The Newtownhamilton attack was the third car-bomb blast this year by IRA dissidents, who seek to wreck the IRA cease-fire and the cross-community Northern Ireland government it spawned.

On Thursday, hours before the attack, police warned that the dissidents appeared determined to increase violence in the run-up to the British election. They said the dissidents were posing their biggest security threat since 1998, the year of Northern Ireland's Good Friday accord — and also the year that dissidents committed the deadliest single attack of the entire conflict, the Omagh car bombing that killed 29 people.

On April 12, the dissidents detonated a car bomb outside the British MI5 spy agency offices near Belfast. On Feb. 22 a car bomb exploded at the security gates of a courthouse in the border town of Newry. Nobody was injured in either of those attacks.

The IRA killed nearly 1,800 people during its failed 1970-1997 campaign to force Northern Ireland out of the United Kingdom. In 2005 the IRA disarmed and renounced violence. □

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Allies aim to start handover of power to Afghans

By ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer

TALLINN, Estonia — Fearful of losing public support for the war in Afghanistan, the U.S. and NATO on Friday agreed to start transferring control of the country back to its leaders by year's end but acknowledged that achieving stability will take decades. If successful, the transition plan approved by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and representatives of the 27 other NATO countries would enable President Barack Obama to meet his target date of July 2011 for starting to bring American troops home.

The stakes are high. If the plan fails, public support in Europe, the U.S. and among Afghans themselves could further erode or even collapse.

Much depends not only on improved NATO military performance but also on political reconciliation between the Taliban and Afghan's central government. The allies must quickly improve the training and performance of the Afghan army and police, and strengthen Afghan institutions weakened by decades of conflict.

Clinton on Friday offered an optimistic assessment of the approach, which NATO hopes Afghan President Hamid Karzai will endorse in July at an international conference in Kabul. Once approved, NATO would officially implement the plan at a summit, possibly in conjunction with a public announcement of the first provinces to be transferred to Afghan control, said Mark Sedwill, the senior NATO civilian in Kabul.

"We believe that with sufficient attention, training and mentoring, the Afghans themselves are perfectly capable of defending themselves against insurgents," Clinton told a news conference. "Does that mean it will be smooth sailing? I don't think so. Look at Iraq."

Asked whether any plan to turn power over to Afghanistan's sometimes dysfunctional, corrupt and resource-poor government was viable, Sedwill told reporters; "It's far

from certain."

Yet he and other NATO officials said they believe that with an infusion of new military and civilian aid — including the 30,000 U.S. troops dispatched by the Obama administration last December — success is possible.

"Increasingly this year the momentum will be ours," said NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen. He said the transition to Afghan control is important to demonstrate not only to Afghans but also to the Western countries fighting there that an end to the war is in sight.

"Our aims in 2010 are clear: to take the initiative against the insurgents, to help the Afghan government exercise its sovereignty, and to start handing over responsibility for Afghanistan to the Afghans this year," Fogh Rasmussen said. He added, however, that even if the transition unfolds as expected it will take decades of additional assistance for Afghanistan to stand on its own.

Sedwill said the first provinces to be transferred to government control would likely be in the north and west, where the Taliban is less active. And he said the idea is to hand over a cluster of contiguous provinces at the same time to increase the odds of their withstanding the insurgents. Clinton warned of a hard road ahead, but said she was not discouraged by the obstacles. NATO is about 450 trainers short of the number it says are needed to prepare security forces for transition to an Afghan-run Afghanistan. That gap apparently remained after Friday's session, which was not designed to elicit specific pledges of troops, trainers or other military resources.

"We have a relatively small gap that we're still working to fill. I'm very convinced we'll get that filled," Clinton said, adding: "For me, the glass is way more than half full."

Rasmussen stressed the importance of providing hope to Afghan civilians and halting an erosion of public support for the war in NATO countries. □



NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen speaks during a media conference after a meeting of NATO foreign ministers and their partners in Tallinn, Estonia, Friday, April 23, 2010. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is expected to press other NATO nations to provide more trainers for Afghanistan's police and military forces as part of preparations to withdraw Western troops from there by summer 2011.

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Cuban singer Carlos Varela set for U.S. tour



Cuban musician Carlos Varela performs at the United Methodist Church, opposite the American University in Washington, in this picture taken and released December 3, 2009.... Read more »

REUTERS/Kendra Seymour/

By Esteban Israel

HAVANA (Reuters) – With U.S.-Cuba relations at their lowest point since President Barack Obama took office last year, Cuban singer Carlos Varela will launch a six-city U.S. tour next month with hopes of bringing the two countries a little closer.

Varela, often referred to as Cuba's Bob Dylan, will start in Los Angeles with a concert on May 5, then work his way across the country for a final show on May 15.

Varela, 47, last performed a concert tour in the United States in 1998 but put on an impromptu show for members

of Congress in Washington in December while lobbying for new U.S. policy toward communist-led Cuba.

Varela and his band will tour the United States amid new tensions triggered by the December arrest in Cuba of a U.S. contractor suspected of espionage and the February death of a Cuban political prisoner on a hunger strike.

Obama, who took office in January 2009, said early on he wanted a "new era" in long-hostile U.S.-Cuba relations and took modest steps toward rapprochement.

But he has adopted a harsher tone in recent weeks, saying Cuba has not reciprocated and has in fact shown its same old "clenched fist" with the arrest of the American and mistreatment of island dissidents.

Cuba, in turn, has stepped up criticism of Washington in state-run media, and accused it of orchestrating, with

Europe, an international media campaign against the island.

TOUCH THE HEART

The bearded, black-clad Varela told Reuters in a recent interview his songs, known for their metaphorical social criticism, cannot by themselves bridge the political gap between the two countries.

"But they can touch a man's heart. And it is men who wage wars, build hatred, separation, borders and religions," he said. "We musicians often are closer to the people than politicians," he said peering through dark glasses during a break in rehearsals at a warehouse near Karl Marx Theater.

His concert tour will be the latest in a series of cultural exchanges under the Obama administration, which views them as a way of increasing people-to-people contact with Cuba.

Cuban musicians including the salsa band Los Van Van

and Buena Vista Social Club singer Omara Portuondo have crossed the Straits of Florida to perform for American audiences. Under the Obama's predecessor, President George W. Bush, Cuban performers, including Varela, were mostly prevented from playing in the U.S. He was denied a visa in 2004.

U.S. band Kool and the Gang played at Havana's Anti-Imperialist Tribunal on December 20.

Varela believes the cultural exchanges will survive renewed U.S.-Cuban hostility and predicts more U.S. musicians soon will play in Cuba.

"Art in general can contribute a lot to relations among neighbors," Varela said. "We can't spend so many years so far away and yet so close."

In addition to Los Angeles, Varela's other U.S. stops will include Oakland, Chicago, Boston and New York City. □



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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY



Job seekers and employers come together at a career fair on February 2010 in California. Tackling high unemployment will be key to bringing down the massive US budget deficit, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke told AFP on Friday.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/David McNew)

Full employment key to tackling US debt: Commerce Secretary

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Tackling high unemployment will be key to bringing down the massive US budget deficit, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke told AFP on Friday.

Amid news that Greece was forced to seek a 45-billion-euro (60-billion-dollar) bailout to keep the state afloat, Locke said President Barack Obama was determined to trim the deficit, which fuels the 12.8-trillion-dollar US debt.

“When we have good full employment GDP is up, then people are gainfully employed not drawing upon government funds for unemployment or social safety programs,” he said.

“At the same time they are making more money and able to pay taxes to local state and federal governments,” he said.

Over eight million Americans have lost their jobs since the start of the economic crisis and one in ten workers is currently unemployed.

The number of long-term unemployed has soared, presenting Obama with one of the most potent economic problems of his presidency.

Republicans accuse Obama of stoking the deficit through sweeping healthcare reforms and other big-government spending.

But according to Locke the challenges of high unemployment and a runaway deficit can be tackled in tandem.

On Tuesday Obama is expected to speak before a bipartisan commission he created to come up with ways to cut US debt. Its findings are expected to be released at the end of the year.

The fiscal deficit has exploded since the economic crisis began, as the government has pumped trillions of dollars into the economy to keep it afloat.

A host of economic experts from the International Monetary Fund to Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke have warned that the economic recovery could be hampered by high levels of US debt. □



KEEP ARUBA CLEAN...

Stocks rise again; Dow up for 8th straight week

By STEPHEN BERNARD,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Investors expecting a pullback in stocks — and there are plenty of them — are going to have to wait. As of Friday the Dow Jones industrial average has entered its longest winning streak in more than six years.

Stocks climbed again Friday after a strong report on new home sales more than offset mixed news from corporate earnings reports. Investors were also keeping a cautious eye fixed on Greece's ongoing debt problems after the country decided to tap a bailout program.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed the day higher for the 11th time in the past 12 trading days. Friday's 70-point gain wrapped up the index's eighth straight weekly rise, which matches its longest string of gains since a two-month stretch that ended in January 2004.

Analysts have been saying for weeks that the market could be primed for a pullback, yet it still hasn't materialized.

“It's been quite a run,” said Stephen Carl, head of equity trading at The Williams Capital Group in New York. Carl said momentum could be slowing after stocks have been on a nearly unbroken path upward over the past two months.

The Dow is up 8.5 percent during its two-month climb. The pattern of slow, steady gains leads analysts to believe that investors are becoming less discerning in their stock picking, leaving the market vulnerable if sentiment shifts for the worse.

“The market is trying to sort out how overbought it is,” said Nick Kalivas, vice president of financial research at MF Global in Chicago. “That's left us in a choppy state.”

Volume has been low during the stretch, which analysts



In this April 22, 2010 photo, a Wall Street sign is shown in front of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks are trading in a tight range Friday, April 23, as early gains from a strong report on new home sales dried up by late morning.... Read more »

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

say is proof that investors are not fully confident that the gains are built on a solid foundations.

Despite that skepticism, stocks continued their recent pattern of slow but steady climbs upward Friday.

The Dow rose 69.99, or 0.6 percent, to 11,204.28 on Friday, closing near its high for the day. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 8.61, or 0.7 percent, to 1,217.28, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 11.08, or 0.4 percent, to 2,530.15.

The gains followed another report showing the economy is getting better. The Commerce Department said sales of new homes jumped 27 percent in March, bouncing off a record low in February. It was the best month since July and the biggest monthly increase in 47 years. However much of the recent big gains in home sales were likely fueled by customers who are trying to qualify for federal tax credits that will expire at the end of this month.

Friday was the second straight day the sector got good news. On Thursday, the National Association of Realtors said sales of existing homes also rose last month.

Joe Heider, principal at

Rehmann in Cleveland, said the home sales report is a strong indication that consumers are growing more confident about the economy.

“We're seeing that people have the confidence to make the biggest purchase of their lives,” Heider said. “And that bodes well for the markets.” Shares of homebuilders including PulteGroup Inc. and Lennar Corp. rose sharply as hopes grew that the troubled housing sector may finally be on the mend. Housing has been one of the hardest-hit sectors in the economy, helping to the economy into recession in late 2007.

Gold and oil rose after the housing report, pushing shares of energy and materials stocks higher throughout the day.

Before the housing report, major indexes were slightly lower following mixed earnings from two Dow components. There was also skepticism that the latest effort to resolve Greece's debt problems would work out in the long term.

Dow components Microsoft Corp. and Travelers Cos. both fell after their quarterly results failed to impress investors. Travelers fell 41 cents to \$53.38. Microsoft's shares fell 43 cents to \$30.96. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Ochoa to play one more tournament before retiring

STEPHEN WADE

AP Sports Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A tearful Lorena Ochoa said she will play one more tournament before she retires, happy to end her career at the top of her game and looking forward to having children.

The 28-year-old Mexican star said Friday she will compete in the Tres Marias Championships next week in Morelia, Mexico. She also plans to annually play in the LPGA's Lorena Ochoa Invitational each November in Guadalajara, and left the door slightly open for competing in a few other select tournaments.

The No. 1 player in women's golf confirmed on her website Tuesday she is leaving the game.

"I wanted to go out when I was on top, and I know this is the right time to leave," Ochoa said when explaining her decision at a Friday news conference.

In a 12-minute speech, a teary-eyed Ochoa repeatedly choked up and had to stop on a number of occasions to compose herself.

"There are so many things that I will miss and this has not been an easy decision to make," Ochoa said. "But this is my moment and I dreamed of it this way."

She got married in December and said she plans to have children, but she said she is not currently pregnant.

Ochoa's announcement



Mexican golf player Lorena Ochoa waves during a news conference in Mexico City, Friday, April 23, 2010. Ochoa, the No. 1 player in women's golf, said she plans to play in the upcoming Tres Marias Championships in Morelia before she retires. Ochoa leaves the game with 27 victories, two major titles and nearly \$15 million in earnings.

Associated Press

comes three years to the day after she achieved the No. 1 ranking, replacing Annika Sorenstam. She leaves the tour with 27 victories, two major titles and nearly \$15 million in earnings.

"When I started to play golf 23 years ago, I had the dream to become the best player in the world, to win many tournaments," she said, "and this is why now is the best time to leave, full of great memories that I am going to share with my family for the rest of my life."

Last year, she won her fourth consecutive LPGA Tour player of the year award. In 2008, she joined only three players who have won four consecutive scheduled events.

However, she only joined the LPGA Tour in 2003

after playing college golf at Arizona, meaning she falls short of the 10-year playing requirement to be eligible for the Hall of Fame.

LPGA vice president Jane Geddes said Ochoa deserved to be in the Hall of Fame and could still make it.

She said she could be considered by a veterans committee, which has less stringent requirements. To meet the 10-year requirement, she would have to play at least 10 tournaments a year for another three seasons.

"If she doesn't come back and play and finish up those 10 years — and she can still can do that — she would be eligible in the veterans category," Geddes said. "There is no doubt that she is a Hall of Fame player." □



Pittsburgh Pirates fans wave foam rubber hands and wear green ball caps as they cheer on the Pirates despite them being behind 10-0 in the sixth inning against the Milwaukee Brewers in the baseball game in Pittsburgh, Thursday, April 22, 2010. The Brewers won 20-0.

Associated Press

NL Roundup

Edmonds, Braun and Brewers batter Pirates 20-0

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Milwaukee Brewers piled up 25 hits in a 20-0 thrashing of Pittsburgh on Thursday in the most-lopsided loss in Pirates history.

Milwaukee matched a club mark for margin of victory and set a record for its biggest shutout win.

Prince Fielder hit his first home run of the season and Jim Edmonds, Ryan Braun and George Kottaras also connected — they were among 10 players with an RBI. The Brewers finished with 12 extra-base hits. Milwaukee led 10-0 after five innings, then scored six runs in the seventh and four more in the ninth. The rout came a day after the Brewers beat up Pittsburgh 8-0.

Edmonds doubled twice and singled, while Braun added a double and single to drive in five runs. Rickie Weeks doubled twice, singled and scored four times.

Randy Wolf (2-1) pitched six sharp innings and three relievers finished up. The Brewers won their fourth in a row and handed Pittsburgh its third straight loss.

At Washington, Colorado's Ubaldo Jimenez followed up his no-hitter by tossing 7 1-3 shutout innings, and Miguel Olivo and Ian Stewart hit solo homers for the first runs allowed this season by Washington's Livan Hernandez.

Overpowering at times, Jimenez (4-0) allowed five hits, struck out five and got 15 of his 22 outs via grounders while lowering his ERA to 0.95 ERA. He is responsible for half of the Rockies' wins this season.

In other NL games it was, Milwaukee 20, Pittsburgh 0; Colorado 2, Washington 0; N.Y. Mets 5, Chicago Cubs 2; Cincinnati 8, L.A. Dodgers 5; Philadelphia 8, Atlanta 3; and Florida 5, Houston 1. □

NHL Roundup

Sens stay alive in 3OT

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Matt Carkner scored in triple overtime to give the Ottawa Senators a 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Thursday, staying alive in their NHL Eastern Conference playoff series.

Carkner fired a slap shot through traffic that deflected off the Penguins' Matt Cooke from the right point. It was his first goal of the postseason, and ended the longest playoff game this season.

Peter Regin scored the tying goal for Ottawa in the third period. Mike Fisher and Jarkko Ruutu also netted, and Jason Spezza and Erik Karlsson each had two assists for the Senators, who trail the Penguins 3-2 in the series.

Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby had a goal and an assist to give him multiple points in every postseason game this season, and Kris Letang and Chris Kunitz also netted for the Penguins.

Flyers 3, Devils 0

In Newark, New Jersey, Philadelphia became the first team into the second round of the playoffs, downing New Jersey to complete a 4-1 series victory.

Flyers goalie Brian Boucher stopped 27 shots for his second career playoff shutout.

Claude Giroux scored twice in the second period after Danny Briere had given the Flyers a 1-0 lead in the first.

Blackhawks 3, Predators 0

In Nashville, Tennessee, Chicago finally found its offensive form to beat Nashville and tie the series at 2-2.

Patrick Sharp scored his first two goals of the postseason and Jonathan Toews also scored his first playoff goal and had an assist. Marian Hossa had an assist, just his second in the series, and rookie goalie Antti Niemi stopped 33 shots for his second shutout.

Blackhawks defenseman Brian Campbell played for the first time since he broke his collarbone and a rib last month.

Nashville gave no offensive

support to goalie Pekka Rinne, who had allowed only two even-strength goals over the first three games.

Sharks 5, Avalanche 0

In San Jose, California, Evgeni Nabokov stopped 28 shots to record his seventh career playoff shutout, guiding San Jose to a 3-2 series lead against Colorado. □

Ottawa Senators' Matt Carkner, center, celebrates his game-winning goal in the third overtime period of a first-round NHL playoff hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins, with teammates Chris Neil, left, and Andy Sutton, right, in Pittsburgh on Thursday, April 22, 2010. The Senators won 4-3.

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Bradford goes first to Rams in NFL draft

BARRY WILNER

AP Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Quarterback Sam Bradford was chosen by the St. Louis Rams with the first pick of the NFL draft Thursday, while the biggest reaction was brought about by the Denver Broncos selecting Tim Tebow.

When the Broncos took the University of Florida quarterback Tebow with pick No.25, it drew a mix of cheers and boos from the audience.

Tebow was by far the most controversial selection Thursday. A winner for four years with the Gators, including two national championships and the 2007 Heisman Trophy for college football's best player, his unorthodox style and strange throwing motion made for widely divided opinions on him.

Not, apparently, for Broncos coach Josh McDaniels, who hopes he found the long-term replacement for Jay Cutler. In his rookie season as a head coach, McDaniels feuded with Cutler a year ago and traded him to Chicago. "I enjoyed the working process and all the critics and the negativity," Tebow said. "It only pushed me that much more and only made me work that much harder. I can honestly say that made me better."

Bradford could be a slight gamble, as well. The Oklahoma junior who became the eighth quarterback since 2001 taken atop the draft,



St. Louis Rams quarterback Sam Bradford, center, holds up his new jersey along side Rams head coach Steve Spagnuolo, left, and general manager Billy Devaney, right, before speaking to the media during an NFL news conference on Friday, April 23, 2010, in St. Louis. Bradford was selected as the No. 1 overall pick by the Rams in the first round.

Associated Press

appeared in only three games in 2009, his junior year, before undergoing right shoulder surgery. His recovery has been so complete that the Rams didn't hesitate to make him the future face of the franchise.

Bradford joins a Rams team that was 1-15 last season and scored a league-low 175 points. The Rams cut incumbent quarterback Marc Bulger in the offseason.

Selection No.2 was defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh to Detroit, followed by two of Bradford's former Oklahoma teammates: defensive tackle Gerald McCoy to Tampa Bay and offensive tackle Trent Williams to Washington.

Suh is considered the best defensive tackle prospect in

more than a decade. He won the Lombardi, Bednarik and Nagurski trophies in 2009 and comes off a dominant Big 12 conference title game in which he had 12 tackles with 4-1/2 sacks.

"He made it an easy pick for us," Lions coach Jim Schwartz said. "He's not just a one-year wonder. He's strong. He's good versus the run. He's good versus the pass. He's very intelligent." McCoy should boost a Tampa defense that once was feared but flopped last season when it yielded 400 points.

Williams, an All-American, will fill a huge hole for the Redskins left by the retirement of Chris Samuels. Safety Eric Berry, also a collegiate All-American,

went fifth to Kansas City. He also has the potential to play cornerback.

Seattle used pick No.6 on offensive tackle Russell Okung. The Seahawks' perennial Pro Bowl blocker Walter Jones might retire.

Cornerback Joe Haden was chosen by Cleveland at No.7, followed by inside linebacker Rolando McClain to Oakland. Both were All-Americans last season.

Running back C.J. Spiller went ninth to Buffalo, prompting groans from New York Giants fans in the packed theater. McClain and Spiller were considered main targets for the Giants.

The surprises and the swaps then began.

Jacksonville used No.10

on defensive tackle Tyson Alualu, projected as a second-round selection by many. San Francisco then moved up two spots, dealing for Denver's pick to get offensive tackle Anthony Davis. San Diego, desperate for a running back after cutting LaDainian Tomlinson, jumped from 28th overall to 12th in a trade. The Chargers took Ryan Mathews, college football's leading rusher last season.

Philadelphia traded for No.13 and took defensive end Brandon Graham, and Seattle then used the No.14 it had acquired to select safety Earl Thomas.

Jason Pierre-Paul, who played just one season at South Florida after two years at a junior college, went to the Giants — a choice that generally drew cheers from the crowd.

Defensive end Derrick Morgan went to Tennessee, San Francisco added guard Mike Iupati to Davis in a strong effort to solidify their offensive line, and Pittsburgh went for center Maurkice Pouncey. Linebacker Sean Weatherspoon to Atlanta and cornerback Kareem Jackson to Houston completed the top 20 picks.

Super Bowl MVP Drew Brees announced New Orleans' pick to finish off the first-round selections: cornerback Patrick Robinson. The swift round lasted 3 hours, 28 minutes.

St. Louis has the opening pick of the second round Friday. □

NBA Playoffs

Lakers, Cavs, Suns all lead 2-1 in their series

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant rediscovered his shooting form to lead Oklahoma City Thunder to a 101-96 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday, cutting the deficit in their NBA first-round playoff series to 2-1. In the first ever playoff game in Oklahoma City, Durant had 29 points and 19 rebounds. Durant and Russell Westbrook scored 22 of the final 23 for the Thunder, including every point during a 10-2 surge that

put Oklahoma City ahead to stay. The top-seeded Lakers got back within 98-96 with 13.5 seconds left, but the Thunder closed it out from the foul line to re-ignite the series. Game 4 is Saturday in Oklahoma City. Kobe Bryant scored 24 points to surpass Jerry West's Lakers franchise record for playoff scoring, and Pau Gasol had 17 points and 15 rebounds for Los Angeles. Undaunted by a raucous sellout crowd, the top-seeded Lakers

scored the first 10 points of the game and were in control until the Thunder roared back with an electrifying run of eight straight points late in the third quarter. The fans reached a deafening pitch as the Thunder completed their charge back from an 11-point deficit. James Harden and Durant hit back-to-back 3-pointers to tie it at 74, and Oklahoma City finally took its first lead of the game with its opening possession of the fourth quarter.



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook, right, dunks over Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom, left, in the third quarter of Game 3 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, in Oklahoma City, Thursday, April 22, 2010. Oklahoma City won 101-96. *Associated Press*

AL Roundup

Yankees turn triple play but lose to A's

OAKLAND, California (AP) — The New York Yankees turned their first triple play for 42 years, yet were beaten 4-2 by the Oakland Athletics on Thursday, ending a six-game American League winning streak.

Oakland's Kurt Suzuki, who earlier had hit a three-run homer, hit a sharp grounder to Alex Rodriguez, who stepped on third base and threw to Robinson Cano at second. Cano's relay to first baseman Nick Johnson just beat Suzuki.

The Yankees had gone 6,632 consecutive regular-season games without a triple play, dating to 1968 when Mickey Mantle caught the final out.

Earlier, Oakland pitcher Dallas Braden (3-0) had to be restrained by his manager from confronting Rodriguez after the top of the sixth inning. Braden was upset that Rodriguez had cut across the pitcher's mound while returning to first base after a foul ball, a supposed breach of baseball etiquette. Braden threw his glove against a wall and kicked a stack of paper cups when he went into the dugout.

The A's managed only four hits but benefited from Yankees starter C.C. Sabathia (2-1) tying a career-worst six walks.

Indians 8, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Cleveland finally got some hits in their victory over the Minnesota Twins.

The Indians, who were last in the league in batting average and slugging percentage entering this game, matched their season high with eight runs.

Cleveland starter Mitch Talbot (2-1) followed his first major league win with six impressive innings, holding the Twins to no earned runs.

This was the worst of four starts this season for Twins pitcher Scott Baker (2-2).

Rays 10, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Tampa Bay completed its most successful road trip in history by thrashing Chicago.

The Rays have never finished a season with a winning record away from Tropicana Field. But they went 9-1 on their first trip this year, outscoring their opponents (Baltimore, Boston and Chicago) by a total of 69-23.

In other AL games it was Cleveland 8, Minnesota 1; Oakland 4, N.Y. Yankees 2; Texas 3, Boston 0; Tampa Bay 10, Chicago White Sox 2; and Detroit 5, L.A. Angels 4. □



From left, Oakland Athletics' Adam Rosales, Rajai Davis, Ryan Sweeney and Chad Pennington celebrate the A's 4-2 win over the New York Yankees in a baseball game in Oakland, Calif., Thursday, April 22, 2010. *Associated Press*

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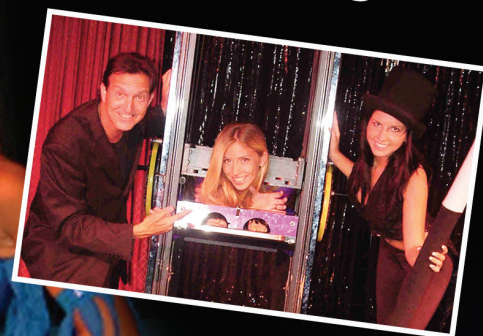
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After two successful marketing conferences for Latin and North America

“Aruba Meets Europe” kicks off tomorrow

Aruba welcomes tourism executives



PALM BEACH -- Aruba is playing host to over 60 tour operators, hotel and airline representative from Europe next week. They will gather here for the Aruba Meets Europe 2010, the annual conference for European travel executives in Aruba, from April 25 to 29.

AME 2010 follows two successful meetings with Latin and North American tour operators and travel industry executives, and the Ministry of Tourism is hoping to showcase the island the best way possible to the European partners.

The participants will be arriving this weekend and will be immediately engaged in hotel inspections. On Sunday, they have to option to enjoy either a sailing trip or a game of golf. Later in the week they will tour the island and enjoy the night life here with special excursions.

Organizers have not scheduled alternatives in the program, but focused strongly on cultural and historical aspects of Aruba during the conference. The European market is known to appreciate these elements. The welcome reception for instance, will be

held at the historic building of the Archeological Museum, and will have a cultural theme, to allow the European travel executives to personally experience the true ‘flavor’ of Aruba, including local music. Moreover, they will be exposed directly to Aruba’s nature, with the event ‘Where Culture meets Nature.’

This entails an early visit to Aruba’s national park with a typical Aruban breakfast will be awaiting the participants, who then will go on a hike in the park.

Mr. Frits Israel of the Aruba Tourism Authority Management Team and CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, AHATA, will lead the opening ceremony, and will be responsible to explain the motive behind AME and the importance of direct exposure to the ‘Aruba’ product, a product the executives also have to sell to their own clients, the European tourists.

Another speaker at the conference is Victor Neyndorff of the Netherlands who will deliver the keynote address for the event. Neyndorff will speak about ‘Keys to Social Marketing.’ In addition to

direct exposure to the Aruba products, the European travel executives will also have a chance to engage in personal conversations with their partners in Aruba. The conference is geared to promote person to person negotiations between hotels here and European tour operators.

The Activity Showcase and Marketplace events are designed for the more official and serious business meetings, during which the suppliers will have 20 minutes each interval to define the working relationship with the travel executives for the years to come.

In addition to the travel executives, the Aruba Tourism Authority also invited eight travel writers from various European countries, including Austria, Sweden and Italy to cover the event, and to have a better idea of the island as a tourist destination for European travelers.

According to Israel, “the European market has major significance for the Aruba tourism industry. On one hand we have to consider the historic relation with The Netherlands. But also,



we have to acknowledge the interest that exists in other European countries, which are now discovering something ‘special’ that Aruba, can offer to visitors.” Israel is convinced that if Arubans are able to maintain their inherent hospitable attitude and interest toward other people, the island for enjoy largely from the diversity of other countries.

Sr. Jim Hepple of AHATA

adds that many European travel executives who have been partnered with Aruba for some time already will be able to elaborate their own ideas on how to improve the Aruba product. “Even though only 10 percent of our visitors come from Europe, it is a very important market. One that has been steadily growing and one that we would like to see expand even more.”

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Dutch Antilles Express sponsoring first prize: round trip Curacao

Bugaloe Introduces Sponsors For Golf Tournament



MALMOK - On Saturday April 24th the second edition of the Bugaloe Open Golf tournament will take place on the 18 holes championship golf course of Tierra del Sol. Heineken has again committed themselves as main sponsors to the event, and in addition Bugaloe also welcomes new main sponsor Dutch Antilles Express.

The famous beer brand Heineken is internationally already involved in sponsoring golf events, like the Heineken Classic Golf in Australia. But also in Aruba, Heineken is supporting golf by ponsoring this annual fun filled golf tournament. Besides being the brewer and supplier of the popular Heineken beer and Amstel Bright, Heineken also distributes the local water brand Claro.

For many years already these drinks are best sellers at Bugaloe. "It's wonderful that Heineken is stepping into the Aruba golf world, as the Bugaloe Open Golf is the perfect occasion for combining fun, friends... and golf," Bugaloe's event manager Myrthe Veltman says with a smile. "A quality tournament deserves a quality beer. With Heineken that's a match."

A newcomer this year as main sponsor is Dutch Antilles Express (DAE). This popular

airline with multiple flights a day between Aruba and Curacao and other Caribbean destinations, has this year come on board with the tournament, and is offering a great prize to the winning team: a round trip to Curacao. For the winners Hyatt Regency Curacao Golf Resort has thrown in a free round of golf on their brand new golf course, which will open in May 2010.

"This is what we love to do... we connect people in the Caribbean. Our schedule of many daily flights to Curacao makes it easy for everyone to visit the neighbor island for a day. But especially for local golfers it's a great service, so that in addition to the local golf courses, they can now easily enjoy the three golf courses in Curacao as well," DAE's Aruba station manager Evelyn Dunlock-Martijn says.

The other sponsors of the tournament are: Superfood, Café 080, ASD, Hyatt Regency Curacao Golf Resort, Art & Design, Price Waterhouse and Coopers, Café-Restaurant Bingo, Chivas Regal, Art & Design, Café Rembrandt, Playa Liquor and Caribbean Mercantile Bank.

Players from Aruba, Curacao, USA and Europe are already teaming up to play this the tournament that has already

become notorious due to its motto: fun, friends... and golf. In a relaxed ambiance and organized in every detail, the Bugaloe Open will welcome any golfer, no matter what handicap one has; as long as the average of combined handicaps is 30 or less.

By playing the Bugaloe Open the golfers and sponsors are supporting foundation "Ban uni man pa cria nos muchanan", a non-profit organization that provides children of low income families with daily breakfasts at their kindergartens or



primary schools after it was found that increasing numbers of children were going to school without breakfast. Right after the golf tournament the splashing After Party takes place at Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill where the players will enjoy a complimentary dinner buffet of course ice cold Heineken beer and Amstel Bright. What a way to ease out the day... it's the Bugaloe

way!
It's already possible to register for the tournament at the Pro Shop of Tierra del Sol (586 0978) or by email: adam.williamson@tierradelsol.com. Bugaloe Beach Bar is located at De Palm Pier between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort. You will find more information on the Bugaloe golf tournament at www.bugaloeopen.com □



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Monday night is Cultural Nights at Paseo Herencia



NOORD: On Monday April 26th at 8:00pm Paseo Herencia Shopping & Entertainment Center is dedicating their weekly Monday night Cultural Dance Show in honor to the famous "Padu Del Caribe" a local composer of Aruba's national anthem and many other popular local songs & literatures. This is in connection with his 90th birthday. The show will be performed by Kids & Youth

in action a group of young local talented dancers. At 8:30pm the show will end with a spectacular water show customized on Padu del Caribe music, this is one show you don't want to miss.

Restaurants are open for breakfast, lunch and Dinner. Stores are open Monday - Saturday from 10am till 10 pm and on Sunday from 5pm till 10pm. □



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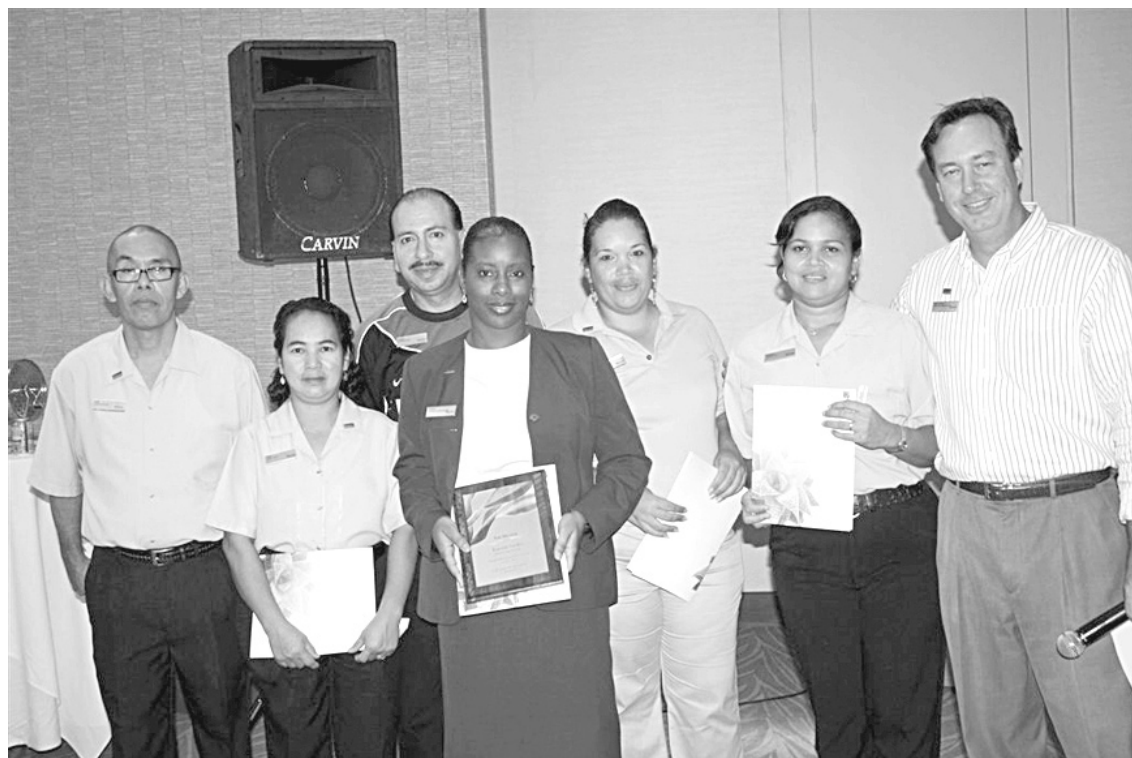
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At The Westin Resort, Aruba

Top performers recognized



PALM BEACH - Recently, all associates and management of The Westin Resort, Aruba were invited to attend a special luncheon in the resort's Palm Beach Ballroom in honor of the nominees for Brand Champion of the Month for March.

The Brand Champion of the Month nominees were tapped by management for exemplifying Westin's core values including providing personal touches and personalized services to 'surprise and delight'

every guest, proactively anticipating guests' needs and making them feel special, and recognizing the special touches offered by Westin to help guests restore the body, expand the mind, and elevate the spirit so they leave not only rested, but also renewed and enriched. The nominated associates are recognized for inspiring their co-workers and making the extra efforts to improve their departments and go above and beyond expectations.

During a beautiful lunch

buffet spread produced by the Westin's culinary and banquet teams, the following were named top of the class: From Heart of the House for March-Julio de la Cruz, from Banquets, for his ability to set up flawless events and his diligence and tireless work ethic; from Front of the House for March-Katuizka Sambo, from Service Express, for her excellent communication and follow-up with both guests and co-workers. □



Chef Sonny's Herb Garden Thrives



EAGLE BEACH – In honor of Earth Day, Chef Sonny Partodikromo conducted tours of his small herb garden, opening the green pavilion

for hotel guests and staff members.

Las Ramblas, reveals the Chef, the resort's intimate seaside restaurant enjoys a continuous

supply of fresh homegrown herbs including parsley, lemon grass, basil, bay leaves, cilantro, mint and rosemary. In addition to herbs the chef also grows peppers, green and red, habaneras, scotch bonnet, eggplants and two kinds of tomatoes.

At the helm of the

culinary team, Chef Sonny Partodikromo concocted an authentic Spanish cuisine menu for Las Ramblas, with a Catalan / Mediterranean slant, in collaboration with Food & Beverage Manager Pierre Kock, and the garden provides the aromatic flair to that culinary journey, enjoyed

by guests nightly.

Pictured here Chef Sonny showing off his green thumbs. The resort also planted a number of trees in honor of Earth Day, a mango and a lemon, in the area of the resort's chapel, where the herb garden is located. □



FCCA Names Kevin Sheehan Chairman

The Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) is proud to announce today it has named Kevin Sheehan as Chairman of its Executive Committee. Sheehan, who is also Chief Executive Officer of Norwegian Cruise Line, replaces Micky Arison, Chairman of Carnival Corp., who steps down from the FCCA Chairman's post following 10 years of distinguished service. The FCCA is the cruise industry's primary association and liaison for legislation, tourism development, ports, safety and security across the Caribbean and Latin America.

"I certainly have very big shoes to fill given the incredible job Micky Arison has done as Chairman," said Sheehan. "With the strong leadership of FCCA President Michelle Paige and Micky's stewardship, the FCCA has been successful in bringing cruise lines together with governments, ports and various private/public sector representatives. I am honored to take on this role and look forward to working with all the cruise lines and partners."

Sheehan added he is also excited to assume the Chairman's position in time to preside at the FCCA's 17th annual Cruise Conference and Trade Show in October and is also excited to work with the FCCA on all its programs and events, specially working directly with all FCCA Platinum/Associate Members. "I see this as a great opportunity to continue to foster the ongoing relationships that the FCCA has and I hope to develop new partnerships on behalf of the cruise industry,"

added Sheehan.

Sheehan, who assumes his new post immediately, joined Norwegian in November 2007 as Chief Financial Officer, taking the helm as CEO in 2008. Before joining Norwegian, he served as Chairman and CEO of Cendant Corp.'s Vehicle Services Division. Prior to joining Cendant Sheehan served in leadership positions at STT Video Partners LLP and Telemundo Group, Inc. He also spent two and a half years consulting to private equity firms and lecturing at New York's Adelphi University as a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Accounting, Finance, and Economics. Sheehan is a graduate of Hunter College, and the New York University Graduate School of Business, and is a Certified Public Accountant.

FCCA is a trade association composed of 15 Member Lines: AIDA Cruises, Azamara Club Cruises, Carnival Cruise Lines, Celebrity Cruises, Costa Cruise Lines, Cunard Line, Disney Cruise Line, Holland America Line, MSC Cruises (USA) Inc., Norwegian Cruise Line, Ocean Village, P&O Cruises, Princess Cruises, Royal Caribbean International and Seabourn Cruise Line. It was created in 1972 by the Member Lines operating more than 100 vessels in Florida, Caribbean and Latin American waters, in order to discuss and exchange views on issues relating to: legislation, tourism development, ports, safety, security and other cruise industry issues. □

On flight between Dutch Antilles and the Netherlands

Cocaine hidden in in-flight meals

DUTCH police have detained 20 people for smuggling cocaine in containers for in-flight meals and waste on planes flying between the Dutch Antilles and the Netherlands, police said.

“Twenty suspects have been arrested over the last four months in the Netherlands and Bonaire,” an island territory of the Netherlands Antilles, Schiphol airport spokesman Robert van Kapel said.

The last two suspects were arrested on Tuesday.

Eleven of the 20 suspects worked for a Schiphol-based company catering for airlines.

Investigators found that the cocaine was hidden in food and waste containers on Netherlands-bound planes.

Police seized more than 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of cocaine, with a street value of €2 million and tens of thousands of euros in cash during 11 searches in the Netherlands.

Twelve of the suspects are Dutch nationals, aged 25 to 49, the spokesman said but did not provide further information. □

HUMAN HINTS

Your Energy Signature

We talk a lot about our daily actions, thoughts, emotions and decisions, which make up our awareness. What do you focus on? What energy occupies your mind and consumes your time each day?

Your focus and awareness create your Personal Energy Signature, which is transmitted into all forms of energetic expression. Your energy travels to infinity, and it affects all vibrational energies in three dimensions and beyond.

What energy are you emitting into the Universe? Are you an understanding, compassionate, accepting person? Are you patient and cooperative? Do you unhesitatingly go out of your way to help a stranger or a bug, just because you can? Or do you seek to control others in order to serve your own motives? There is a fine line and a huge difference between guiding children to protect them from their lack of foresight, and controlling them because we're selfish.

The energy you generate and emit into the Universe is the same energy the Universe reflects back to you in your three dimensional life. Since we are all just learning this, there is a time delay in three dimensional manifestation. This is a built-in safety mechanism so that whatever pops into our minds doesn't suddenly pop into our lives. Our minds are wild and unpredictable, and not always benevolent. The time delay will diminish as we learn to tame our thoughts.

When we realize that we are all connected, we naturally don't hurt or dominate each other. Forces of suppression exist only because we are immersed in the illusion that we're separate from each other. In Unity Consciousness, our thoughts will be vastly different than what goes on in our minds today, and we will have no reason to fear ourselves or each other. When we no longer need the time delay safety switch, manifestation will be instantaneous. We can only dream of what our challenges will be when we reach that level of power and responsibility.

The energy you generate is reflected back to you, but that's not the only energy you will encounter in your life. The intent of our spirit is beyond our awareness. We can't know the lessons we signed up to learn, until we learn them. Even though we create our reality, sometimes bad things happen that we don't expect. Usually it is a spiritual lesson that we signed up for when we entered our body. When it's beyond your control, it's usually best to let go and surrender your future to your Spirit, until your new challenges become clear. Faith is trusting in your own Spirit to provide you whatever you need.

Be aware of the energy you are sending into the Universe. It is your Energy Signature that you cannot hide or fake. There is no Energy Identity Theft in the Energetic Realm. How do you represent yourself to the Infinite Energetic Expressions? When an entity encounters your energy, would they be intrigued or repulsed? Would your energy empower or disgust those who encounter it? It is entirely up to you.

Until Tomorrow...


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~Quentin Danziger


Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for the daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work

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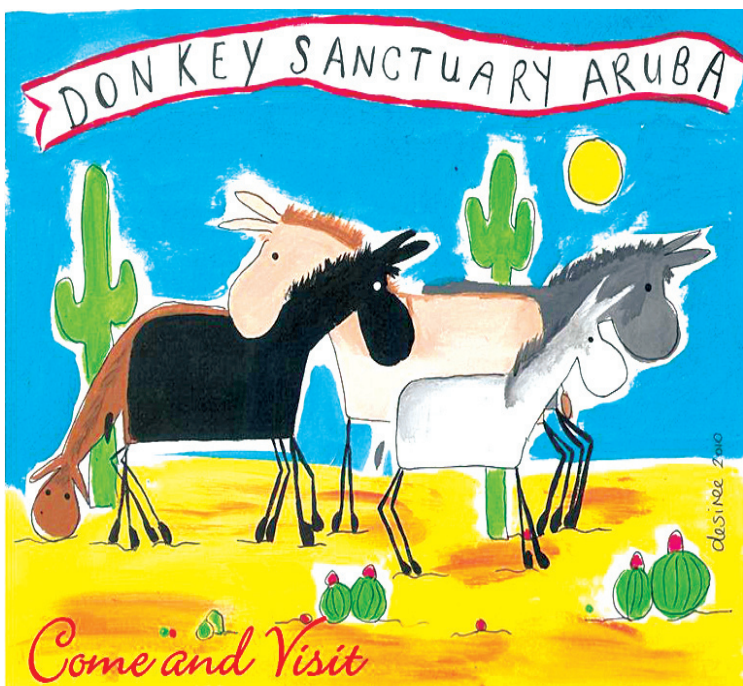
For reservations call
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Westin Entertains its Support Staff



PALM BEACH – The Westin Aruba Resort entertained the administrative assistants at Blossoms over Teppanyaki lunch.

The party was given in honor of Elsa Rafael, Joanne Geerman, Ruth Melfor, Jancis Tromp, Swinda Hoek, Sharon Peters, Noella Brown Richella Paesch and Milagros Yarasca, who make up the support staff of the hospitality giant on Palm Beach. Pictured here memorable party moments



SUPERB NEW ILLUSIONS

MAGIC Live! Comedy On the Beach 3 shows in 1

At the Westin Aruba at 9.PM nightly



Magician Adam Steinfeld laughs it up, on stage, at the Magic Live!® theater, showroom.

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PALM BEACH - STEINFELD presents WOW factor! at the MAGIC LIVE!® ...theater-of-illusions show, Westin - Aruba. MAGIC Live!® theater-of-illusions show, starring Adam Steinfeld... is an amazing night of Magic, Grand Illusions and Comedy, superb magic at it's highest level, a lot of fun from

start to finish, laugh-out-loud funny, intelligent, sophisticated, unconventional grand illusions, that will keep you asking, 'how the heck did he do that?'

Perfect for the holiday season, have you ever dreamed of disappearing and reappearing in an instant? Master illusionist, comedy magician, Adam Steinfeld MagicLive show at the WESTIN, Aruba, nightly 9PM, every night, doors open at 8:30PM, and tickets may be purchased at the door, in the intimate Magic Live! theater-of-illusions

theater, every seat is close to the stage.

In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees, then the sections are taken away,

one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes!

Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world. I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba, and on network television,



Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new england mystery writer Al Blanchard, he believes

will be turned into a feature film.

The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

OFFICE tickets are located in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □



IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show
Where: Westin - Aruba, Palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
ShowTime: 9:00 pm, nightly, (7 days a week) theater opens at 8:30pm
Tickets: at the door, MagicLive box office (hotel lobby), or Westin-aruba concierges desk
Box office opens at 7:30pm nightly
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.95 adults

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Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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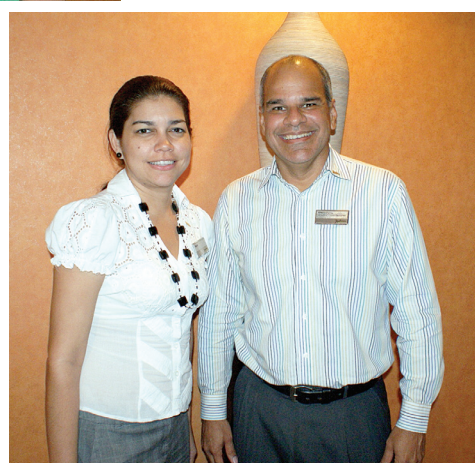


PALM BEACH -- Executive Assistant Manager, Lourdes Geerman, Administrative Assistants Rugia Werleman, Margarita Vries, Mijoli Sophia & Sandra Kock, joined Administrative Coordinators Rinda Everon, Sylvio Groeneveldt, Marvinia Richardson & Mercedes Dijkhoff at a special luncheon hosted in their honor, in one of the resort's banquet rooms. The luncheon, prepared by Executive Chef Hector Espinoza and the culinary brigade, served as a token of heartfelt appreciation to the resort's support staff, or in the words of General Manager Rob Smith, the resort's Work Partners, teaming with the executives in charge to produce excellent work. Following delicious dessert, a combination of Tiramisu, and Apple Strudel a la mode, the Administrative Assistants



were escorted to Larimar Spa for an afternoon of pampering. During lunch, special gifts were raffled among the nine administrative partners, with weekend stays and dinners at neighboring establishments such as the Westin Resort,

La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club, the Holiday Inn Sunspree and Texas De Brazil restaurant. Pictured here the work partners celebrating a special occasion, as well as the welcome at Larimar Spa. □



Faster hair growth tips and exclusive hair information – Pt. 3



Hair Nutrition:

Applying the right hair care products (shampoos, cleansers, nourishers) and taking adequate herbal and dietary nutrition are some of the essential hair care remedies for healthy hair growth. The dietary and herbal nutrition not only takes care of the healthy functioning of the body but also heals minor and major hair problems. Herbal nutrition is popular as a natural hair care remedy. Traditional age-old herbal supplements have created hope not only among ailment sufferers, but also among healthy people who frequently use it for their general well-being. The increasing success of the herbal remedies lies in the fact that they, rather than attempting to suppress the symptoms, enhance the natural healing mechanisms of the body to tackle the problem at the root. But intake of herbal supplements alone is not enough for healthy hair growth. You also need to take all natural diet supplements, to provide adequate nutrition to cells of the dermal papilla at the root of the hair follicle to remain in an active growth phase. Roots are the living parts of the hair and so the supply of vitamins, minerals and other nutritional supplements cannot be overlooked. Besides nutritious diet intake, healthy hair needs regular cleansing and conditioning to remove dirt and sebum which affect the health of hair by getting stuck and closing the pores. They need external help to be stripped off. While cleansing or conditioning, it is better to use the useful natural

based professional hair care products available in the market. Studies have confirmed that herbal and natural cleansers and nourishers are the best form of hair care and hair growth products needed for healthy hair. There is an increasing popularity of such hair cleansers and nourishers. The reason of the increasing popularity lies with the fact that many people prefer not to apply harmful chemicals on their hair. These hair care remedies are effective in treating various hair problems other than providing a soothing effect on the scalp. All these useful products and supplements have not only demonstrated their effectiveness by preventing hair loss, but they also reversed the hair loss causes and promoted hair growth. The most advantageous factor of these natural hair care remedies is that they are devoid of any side effects used according to the recommended procedure. So take up the suitable hair care remedies and have hair which is ever shining and beautiful.

Hair Care:

Most women desire beautiful, healthy, shiny hair, but few are aware of the right way to acquire it. It is this ignorance of people that the television commercials and ad magazines take undue advantage of to lure people with their glossy and catchy ads about synthetic hair care products. In reality these

synthetic hair care products do not offer much advantage. Rather, some of them are bad for hair and may even cause irritation or burning sensations to the scalp. The key to healthy and beautiful hair lies in the use of natural hair care products. They are quite efficient for improving most types of hair provided they are applied in accordance with the specific hair care requirement. Many a product that is extracted from plants, or includes other beneficial natural elements, has been used for treating hair problems successfully for years. Other than promoting healthy hair growth these natural hair care products also impart a sweet, natural fragrance to the hair unlike that offered by their synthetic counterparts. Unlike synthetic products they are usually devoid of any side-effects. Natural hair care products alone cannot promote healthy hair growth. Hair roots are alive and like any other organs of the body they need nutrition to maintain their normal functioning. The natural vitamins for hair growth which are most essential includes those in the vitamin B group. Apart from these, vitamins including vitamin E and C are also helpful for hair growth. Vitamins are among the purest ingredients that can help ensure healthy hair growth on the scalp.

Besides the natural vitamins for hair growth there are several other hair loss factors



that need to be considered if you want to maintain a healthy hair growth. Among other natural hair care products, the product which needs special mention is natural hair color. Natural dyes are generally safe to use and usually do not have any adverse reactions, although some people can be allergic to some natural dyes containing henna.

The natural hair colors can help you to have healthy hair by their conditioning effect; moreover these natural dyes are devoid of poisonous chemical elements like bleach or ammonia. In addition to these herbal based natural hair care products available in the market, there are plenty of herbal and nutritional diet supplements available on the market to take care of you hair.

Hair Styles:

Have you ever got tired of your regular looks? Have you tried to change it? Your hair is an important asset in this regard; styling your hair in a different way brings about a great change in way you look. We are here to help you find out some hair styles that suit your face and the type of your hair. We will also tell you about the ideal hair style and care. Maybe a hair style in a magazine has impressed you, but you have not tried it so far. Or maybe you have wanted to visit a salon, but the money you need to pay in the salon has prevented you from doing so. Not to worry, the new and latest styles given here not only help you to do something new, it helps you to enhance your looks. Make sure that the hair styles that you choose for yourself, suit your facial features, your skin tone and your personality.





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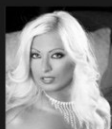
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5 Republican Seats Democrats Could Win

Kyle Trygstad

Republican leaders say their goal in the upcoming midterm elections is to pick up 40 House seats and take back the majority, and most political handicappers say that's a real possibility. By just about any measure of national polling, Democrats face an abysmal national mood and a toxic political environment that's likely to last through Election Day. But while Democrats prepare for big losses in the midterm elections, there are a handful of GOP seats around the country that the party has a legitimate chance of winning. Doing so would force Republicans to work a little harder to achieve their goal of winning control of the House. Here's a look at the five Republican-held seats Democrats have the best chance of winning:

Delaware - At Large: Rep. Mike Castle (R) is heavily favored to win Vice President Joe Biden's former Senate seat, but he left behind an open House seat that most expect Democrat John Carney to win. Carney is the former lieutenant governor who lost a close Democratic primary race for governor in 2008. The only Republican with significant money is real estate developer Glen Urquhart, who's dropped \$565,000 of his own money into the race, while raising just \$3,000. With three counties, the small state's voters elect people they know and like, and Carney fits the bill here. He's been elected statewide twice, and he previously served as state finance secretary under then-Gov. Tom Carper and a staffer in the office of then-Sen. Biden. Carney's raised nearly \$1 million and has \$675,000 in the bank.

Illinois - 10: This is Democrat Dan Seals' third straight shot at the North Shore district, falling 6-points shy in the last two elections against Rep. Mark Kirk. However, Kirk's running for the Senate this year and taking along his moderate voting record that allowed him to win this Democratic-leaning district for five terms. The fact that Kirk continued to win here -- even in 2008 when President Obama carried it with 61% -- probably says more about Kirk than the district. His opponent this year is businessman Bob Dold, who's raised nearly \$1 million and has \$380,000 on hand. But Seals is raising impressive sums as well -- he has \$460,000 on hand and is receiving some assistance from the national party.

Pennsylvania - 15: Rep. Charlie Dent is facing his most difficult re-election this year, with Democrats scoring one of their top recruits in the nation: Bethlehem Mayor John Callahan, who received a fundraising visit from Biden just last week. Dent and Callahan are within \$5,000 of each other in cash on hand, and with national Democrats continuing to raise money for November, Callahan can expect to receive all the help he needs.

'Tea party' founder: Why our movement will succeed -- and why it's good for America

By Bill Hennessy

St. Louis -- Imagine that the "tea party" movement continued to expand in size and influence. At some point in the future, tea partyers, regardless of political party affiliation, would dominate the executive and legislative branches of federal government. Our influence on the courts would increase. In this scenario, the tea party would eventually change the face of the federal government.

What would America look like then?

Before we answer that question, remember that no single person speaks for the tea party movement. Tea partyers hold political views that run the gamut from traditional Christian conservative to libertarian. We can't describe a tea party future without answering the question, "Which tea partyer are you talking about?"

If we select the most common points of agreement, however, we can paint a fairly accurate picture of the changes tea partyers would likely make to our government and how those changes could alter your relationship to Washington. First let's look at the most common themes among tea partyers.

While many local tea party organizations involve themselves in local or state issues and races, the movement's primary interest lies in Washington. Nearly 8 in 10 Americans distrust the federal government, according to a recent Pew Research Center poll. Among tea partyers, that statistic is closer to 9 in 10. That's important because it highlights a very important common theme: a libertarian view of Washington's role. Tea partyers would reduce the scope of federal power in two ways. First, we would trim federal legislation, reducing the Federal Register -- the daily publication of federal rules, regulations, orders, and notices -- from more than 69,000 pages to, say, 10,000 pages, as it was in 1950. Second, we would eliminate the legislative power of federal departments and agencies. The Environmental Protection Agency would no longer be able to declare the mud puddle in my backyard federally protected wetlands citing nothing more than bureaucratic fiat.

For you, this means that Washington would have less direct influence over your life. You could plan for the future knowing that your property is your property. You would not need a Washington bureaucrat's permission to paint your house blue or to put in a swimming pool. You would not have to buy government-approved health insurance or drive a government-made car.

This change will significantly increase your personal political power. Today, Washington has undue influence over your life. And changing federal law is nearly impossible. You either have to hire an expensive team of lobbyists or convince at least half of all Americans voters to support the candidates for Congress who support your idea of reform. Do you have that kind of time and money?

Tea partyers want to restore the balance of power in America, making state and local governments more important than the federal

government, as was intended by the US Constitution, and which was the case for the first half of US history. Under this arrangement, the number of people you'd need to influence to change the law drops quickly. Federalism and a smaller national government means individuals carry more power. The Constitution lists a very limited number of activities that the United States may perform on our behalf. The tea party movement would implement a plan to phase out those activities, departments, and agencies that came about outside the amendment process of the Constitution. Expect to see the departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Veterans Affairs disappear over time. Homeland Security, which comprises some legitimate activities, would be splintered into more manageable parts. If we want to hold on to an existing department whose mission is beyond the constitutional roles of government, then Congress and the states would have to adopt a constitutional amendment to establish that new power.

For you, this would mean far less dependency on a faceless Washington bureaucrat. No more "No Child Left Behind" dictates that teach 20th-century lessons to 21st-century students. As with all of the tea party's ideas, this one leaves you freer than you started out.

The tea party movement is most closely associated with anger over bailouts, taxes, spending, and debt. But the financial problems our government faces are symptoms of the problems addressed earlier. Reducing the government's onerous and unsustainable spending is both an objective and a consequence of the changes above.

In 1949, federal spending equaled 14 percent of gross domestic product (GDP); in 2009, the government spent 25 percent of GDP, a 70 percent increase. According to the Congressional Budget Office, by 2019, the national debt will equal 90 percent of GDP, a tipping point associated with harmfully slower economic growth, according to economists Kenneth Rogoff and Carmen Reinhart. We aim to stop that. Outside of defense spending, the three largest items in the federal budget -- Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid -- would be phased out unless proponents could muster support for a constitutional amendment. These extra-constitutional programs amount to massive Ponzi schemes that fall apart without significant population growth. I would propose phasing these programs out by age, with anyone at or near retirement receiving full benefits. We want to keep the previous generation's promise to retirees, even if that promise was illegitimate. For you, this change means a more secure financial future, a better education for your kids, and more predictable retirement. Eventually, your federal tax burden would ease significantly. Reduced federal spending will reduce the annual budget deficits and allow us to begin paying down our nation's massive debt.

Sismo magnitud 5,9 remecece sur Chile sin causar daños

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - Un sismo de magnitud 5,9 remeció el viernes al sur de Chile, con epicentro en una zona fuertemente dañada por el devastador terremoto de fines de febrero, pero no hubo reportes inmediatos de daños o víctimas.

Residentes en la región del Bío-Bío se despertaron con el temblor que duró unos 25 segundos, informó la emisora local Radio Cooperativa.

El Servicio Geológico de Estados Unidos (USGS por su sigla en inglés) reportó que el sismo se registró a las 06.03 hora local (1003 GMT), con epicentro a 65 kilómetros al sureste de la ciudad de Concepción.

“No tengo reportes de daños ni de infraestructura ni de personas, y espero que sea de las últimas réplicas que los sismólogos advirtieron que podrían producirse luego del terremoto del 27 de febrero”, dijo el ministro del Interior, Rodrigo Hinzpeter, a Radio Cooperativa.

El terremoto del 27 de febrero tuvo una magnitud de 8,8 y provocó tsunamis, que dejaron alrededor de 500 muertos y la ruptura de rutas y ciudades. Además, causó un estimado de 30.000 millones de dólares en daños a infraestructuras, viviendas e industrias, según el Gobierno chileno. □



magen de archivo de sobrevivientes al terremoto que azotó a Chile, viviendo en improvisados campamentos en Dichato. Mar 26 2010. Un sismo de magnitud 5,9 remeció el viernes al sur de Chile, con epicentro en una zona fuertemente dañada por el devastador terremoto de fines de febrero, pero no hubo reportes inmediatos de daños o víctimas. REUTERS/Jose Luis Saavedra/ARCHIVO

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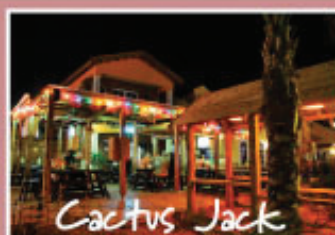


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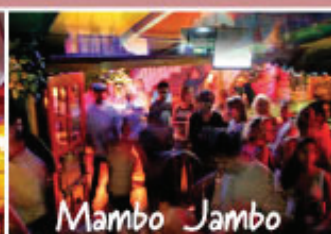
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